



## *Business Leadership Forum*

M.P. Birla Institute of Management

Talk – 1 April 19, 2013

*Talk by Ms. Priya Rao*

Principal, Spastic Society of Karnataka



Mrs. Priya Rao addressing students

Mrs. Priya Rao, addressed MPBIM students during the awareness campaign on Neuro-Muscular and Developmental Disabilities like Cerebral Palsy, Autism, Mental Retardation, Multiple Disabilities and Learning Disabilities.

Ms. Priya Rao during her presentation on the subject introduced students to **The Spastics Society of Karnataka**, a Non-Government Organisation (NGO) dedicated to the welfare of persons with Neuro-Muscular and Developmental Disabilities.

In her presentation Mrs. Rao explained the services the Society provides which is a Comprehensive Package of Diagnostic and Intervention Services to persons with Cerebral Palsy, Autism, Mental Retardation, Multiple Disabilities and Learning Disabilities.

### **The major services provided by the Society are**

- **Diagnostic and Rehabilitation Services for children with Neuromuscular and Developmental Disabilities with special focus on:**
  - Cerebral Palsy
  - Mental Retardation
  - Autism
  - Multiple Disabilities
  - Learning Disabilities/Difficulties
- **Diagnostics and Research Centre (DRC)**
- **Medical Diagnostic Services**
  - **Pediatric Neurology:**
  - **Orthopaedic Clinic:**
  - **Dental Clinic:**



- ENT Clinic
- Ophthalmology Clinic
- Epilepsy Clinic
- Psychiatry Clinic
- Paramedical Services
  - Family Support Services
- Assistive Technology Centre- SSK CATELST
- The Centre for Assistive Technology for Life Skill Training



She also explained on the **vocational training provided at the centre where SSK markets its Products like Jute, Textile. Paper and Food Products** made by the students of the Spastics Society of Karnataka. These are suitable for all events - Weddings, Parties, Seminars, Conferences and to lighten up the Homes. The children of the Spastics Society of Karnataka produce a variety of eco friendly products for various uses. Mrs. Rao explained various case studies during her enlightening presentation.

One of the most inspiring case study was of Tito. Tito underwent academic programme at the Spastic Society of Karnataka for more than three years. Despite severe autism and being nearly non-verbal, Tito Rajarshi Mukhopadhyay inspires many through his prolific writing. During a recent visit to the city, Tito, 20, interacted with parents and NGOs working for special children at the Spastic Society of Karnataka. A look at his poetic prowess speaks volumes of his talent.

*Maybe it is night*

*Maybe it is day*

*I can't be sure*

*Because I'm not yet feeling the heat of the sun*

*I am the mind tree*

*When I had been gifted this mind of mine*

*I recall his voice very clearly*

*To you I have given this mind*

*And you shall be the only kind*

*No one ever will like you be*

*And I name you the mind tree*

*I can't see or talk*

*Yet I can imagine*

*I can hope and I can expect*

*I am able to feel pain but I cannot cry*

*So I just be and wait for the pain to subside*

*I can do nothing but wait*

*My concerns and worries*

*Are trapped within me somewhere in my depths*

*Maybe in my roots*

*Maybe in my bark*

*When he comes next who gifted me my mind*

*I shall ask him for the gift of sight*

*I doubt his return and*

*Yet hope for it*

*Maybe he will*

*Maybe he will not*

“My mother prevented me from being a vegetable,” says Tito who was an individual distressed with the label of being called “mentally retarded”. Tito rose to fame after penning his autobiography at the age of eight years. Tito now stays in the USA.

**She called upon students to be aware of the** Neuro-Muscular and Developmental Disabilities like Cerebral Palsy, Autism, Mental Retardation, Multiple Disabilities and Learning Disabilities and respond to people with enthusiasm , compassion and patience. She called upon the students to volunteer service to the persons afflicted by these disabilities. Mrs. Rao was assisted by Sri Shaileesh Kumar of SSK.

The students were given certificates of participation.



Mrs. Priya Rao felicitated by  
Prof Ramadas



Greeting cards from SSK



Tito with his mother Mrs. Soma in  
Bangalore

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